

Existing law establishes the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund (the fund). Provides that expenditures from the fund are governed by the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Advisory Board (the board) within the Dept. of Social Services (DSS), office of rehabilitation services.

Existing law provides that the fund shall consist of legislative appropriations and of monies collected from certain driving offenses. Beginning January 1, 1994, those fees, which are in addition to all fines, fees, costs, and punishment prescribed by law, are: \$25 for driving under the influence offenses, \$5 for reckless driving offenses, and \$5 for speeding offenses.

New law retains existing law. Additionally provides that in the event that payment arrangements for other fines, fees, costs, and punishments are made for payment over time, the fee described above shall be collected in priority after costs of court.

Existing law provides that all monies collected be forwarded by the collecting officer of the court to the state treasurer within 30 days after the penalty or forfeiture is collected.

New law retains existing law.

Existing law requires the fees collected to be deposited to the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund account under DSS, office of rehabilitation services, subject to constitutional provisions. Provides that monies in the fund not appropriated by the legislature remain in the fund.

New law additionally provides that the state treasurer invest monies in the fund in the same manner as the state general fund. Provides that interest earned remain to the credit of the fund.

Prior law required monies in the fund to be used solely for programs designed to provide services to La. citizens disabled by traumatic head and spinal cord injuries. Further provided that disbursement of the appropriation shall be made as determined by the board.

New law retains prior law but authorizes the disbursement of up to \$50,000 per year for the establishment and operation of an information resource center.

Existing law provides that fund distributions are solely for the cost of care for traumatic head and spinal cord injury as a source of last resort after private and governmental sources have been expended.

New law specifies that the existing law restriction does not apply to the \$50,000 annual disbursement for the establishment and operation of an information resource center.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 29, 1999).

(Amends R.S. 46:2633(B), (C), and (D) and 2635(A))